

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 145) designating the first week of April 2021 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 145) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 17, S. Res. 34.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 34) recognizing the 200th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor in honor of an historic occasion: the 200th anniversary of Greece's independence. I am delighted to join the Greek-American community in New Jersey and across the United States in celebrating this bicentennial. The bonds of friendship between the United States and Greece are unbreakable, and as I stand here, in the center of American democracy, I am reminded of the strength of the shared democratic values on which our long partnership is based.

Greece has made incredible contributions to the world, not least of which is developing the ideals of democracy and rule of law that inspired our Founding Fathers to establish our American system of government. The very architecture of the Capitol building is a tribute to the foundational role Greece played in the shaping of our democracy and society. The democratic ideals developed in ancient Greece continue to motivate Americans and people around the world today.

The people of the United States in turn worked to support the people of Greece as they began their own struggle for independence 200 years ago.

American Philhellene Committees, comprised of ordinary Americans, sprung up to support the Greek fight for freedom through fundraising and humanitarian assistance.

Members of Congress, including Daniel Webster applauded "the struggle of an interesting and gallant people . . . contending against fearful odds . . . for the common privilege of human nature." In a letter to Greek scholar Adamantios Koraes, whose work formed the intellectual basis for the Greek independence struggle, Thomas Jefferson demonstrated his support by writing that "no people sympathise more feelingly than ours with the sufferings of your countrymen, none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success."

Several American Philhellenes traveled to Greece to assist the Greek people more directly. Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, who later became a prominent voice in America's fight to end slavery, served with the Greek army as a surgeon and a soldier. Jonathan Peckham Miller, another future noted abolitionist, also served in the Greek army. George Jarvis fought alongside the Greek people, as well as working to provide food, medicine, and clothing to those who needed it with the support of the American Philhellene Committees.

The bonds between the peoples and governments of Greece and the United States have lasted throughout our countries' long history and are stronger than ever today. Greece is an invaluable partner to the United States as a NATO member, as an EU member, and in promoting peace and stability in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean region. Greece's unwavering commitment to democracy and the rule of law makes it a truly reliable ally in the region and an increasingly critical one as we face the challenges of the 21st century.

I am proud that Congress demonstrated its support for further boosting U.S.-Greece cooperation and U.S. support for the Greece-Cyprus-Israel trilateral, with the passage of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act a little over a year ago. Ensuring full implementation of this act is one of my priorities as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

The past few years have seen critical developments in U.S.-Greece relations. I am grateful to the leadership of officials in both countries whose work has helped U.S.-Greece ties reach their strongest level ever, including Ambassador Geoff Pyatt, and I look forward to building on their fantastic efforts in the months and years to come.

This 200th anniversary of Greece's independence truly is a time to celebrate: a time to celebrate Greece's hard-won freedom; a time to celebrate the bonds between our peoples, and especially the many contributions Greek Americans have made to this country; and a time to celebrate our countries' shared history and democratic values,

which will be the basis of our countries' cooperation for years to come.

This week, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved a resolution congratulating the people of Greece on the 200th anniversary of their independence. I am grateful to Senator BARRASSO for joining me in leading this resolution and to my many Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have cosponsored this resolution. With the passage of this resolution every year, Congress—and, through us, the American people—send a clear message of support for the Greek people and our countries' enduring partnership.

Greece's 200th independence anniversary serves not only as a reminder of our countries' long friendship, but also as a time for us to look to build on that history and strengthen our partnership for generations to come. The Eastern Mediterranean region and the world face unprecedented challenges, and growing the U.S.-Greece relationship is more critical than ever for our shared security and stability. I look forward to working with the people of Greece and the Greek-American community to make the vision of an even stronger U.S.-Greece relationship a reality.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 34) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 4, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 70-770, the appointment of the following individual to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: The Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 117th Congress: The Honorable ROGER WICKER of Mississippi; The Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas; The Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida; and The Honorable THOM TILLIS of North Carolina.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101-509 the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Deborah Skaggs of Kentucky.

The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of